

## Protect Your Community's Water

Fact: Landscape practices can affect the environment, especially streams and rivers. Homeowners tend to use an over-abundance of fertilizers and pesticides on their lawn. It is estimated that some homeowners use ten times more pesticides per acre than farmers. The excess chemicals can run off the property into storm drains, which in turn will affect nearby creeks and streams. It is important to choose a fertilizer that contains the right amount of nitrogen and potassium, as phosphorus is a major pollutant within the Rouge River Watershed.

Tip: to protect water quality, it is recommended that you choose a slow-release fertilizer that contains no phosphorus. Also, spring applications can actually harm lawns by promoting more blade growth than root growth, making the lawn more susceptible to drought. Apply the fertilizers in the fall to promote deep, healthy root systems and to minimize weed and disease problems. Using the correct ingredients and the right timing, our community can have healthy lawns while still protecting our water quality!